PDR® for Herbal Medicines entry for:

Selenicereus Grandiflorus

Night-Blooming Cereus

Description

DESCRIPTION

Medicinal Parts: The medicinal parts are the fresh or dried flowers and the fresh young stems and flowers and the fresh young shoots.

Flower and Fruit: The flowers are 18 to 25 cm long and have a diameter of 15 to 27 cm. They have numerous, long-acute, lanceolate tepals. The outer tepals are brown; the middle ones are light yellow and the inner ones are spatulate to acute, lanceolate and snow white. The numerous stamens are white and have yellow anthers. The styles, with the 4-rayed stigmas, become yellow towards the top. The ovary is globular and bumpy, with triangular scales and many brownish gray hairs and thorns, which are approximately 10 mm long, dark brown and bristly.

Leaves, Stem and Root: The plant has a succulent trunk. There is a snake-like, creeping or climbing branched stem, which is 4 to 8 sided or 5 to 6 sided. The stem can grow to 10 m. It is green to bluish, has no bumps and is covered in adventitious roots. The stem has white tomentose axis buds on the protruding vertical ribs with 6 to 11 needle-like, 4-6 mm-long thorns.

Characteristics: The plant has sweet-smelling flowers which only bloom for about 6 hours before wilting.

Habitat: The plant is indigenous to Central America and is cultivated mainly in Mexico.

Production: The plant is cultivated in greenhouses. The young shoots and flowers are harvested in June/July and then conserved in alcohol.

Not To Be Confused With: The flowers of Opuntia maxima, Selenicereus hamatus, and Selenicereus pteranthus. The drug is confused commercially with the flowers of Opuntia vilgaris and Opuntia ficus-indica.

Other Names: Sweet-scented Cactus (back to top)

ACTIONS AND PHARMACOLOGY

COMPOUNDS

Flavonoids (1.5%): including among others, narcissin, rutin, cacticine, kaempferitine, grandiflorin,

hyperoside

Amines (in the shoots): chief components are hordenine (cactine), tyramine, N-methyltyramine

Betacyans: (in the blossoms, yellow pigments)

EFFECTS

The drug has a digitalis effect, which includes cardiac stimulation, coronary and peripheral vessel dilation. The drug stimulates the motor neurons of the spinal cord. In addition, the drug may act topically as an antiphlogistic, but this is unproven. (*back to top*)

INDICATIONS AND USAGE

Preparations of Selenicereus grandiflorus are used for nervous cardiac disorders, angina pectoris, stenocardia, and urinary ailments.

In folk medicine, the drug is used internally for hemoptysis, menorrhagia, dysmenorrhea, hemorrhage and as an infusion for cardiac complaints (Mexico). The juice of the whole plant is used for cystitis, shortness of breath and dropsy (Central America). Externally, it is used as a skin stimulant for rheumatism (Central America and Mexico). (*back to top*)

PRECAUTIONS AND ADVERSE REACTIONS

No health hazards or side effects are known in conjunction with the proper administration of designated therapeutic dosages. The fresh juice is said to cause itching and pustules on the skin, and burning of the mouth, queasiness, vomiting and diarrhea following intake. (*back to top*)

DOSAGE

Mode of Administration: Preparations are used internally and externally.

Preparations: Fluid extract (Extractum Cerei liquidum 1:1) and Tinctura Cerei (1:4) BPC 34.

Daily Dosage: For the folk medicine dosages, a liquid extract is used in doses up to 0.6 ml, one to 10 times daily. The tincture dosage is 0.12 to 2 ml taken 2 to 3 times daily. For tincture in sweetened water (1:10), 10 drops, 3 to 5 times daily. (*back to top*)

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PDR® for Herbal Medicines entry for:

Panax Ginseng

Ginseng

Description

DESCRIPTION

Medicinal Parts: The medicinal part is the dried root.

Flower and Fruit: The inflorescence is simple or branched with 1 to 3 umbels of 15 to 30 flowers. The flowers are androgynous and have greenish-yellow corollas. The ovary is inferior. The fruit is a pea-sized, globose to reniform, scarlet, smooth and glossy drupe, which contains 2 seeds.

Leaves, Stem and Root: The plant is perennial, erect and 30 to 80 cm high. It has a glabrous, round stem and bears terminal whorls of 3 to 5 palmate leaves. The leaflets are thin, finely serrate, gradually acuminate, 7 to 20 cm long and 2 to 5 cm wide. The plant has a fusiform rhizome, which is often palmate at the tip giving it a human-like form.

Habitat: Panax ginseng is indigenous to China. It is cultivated in China, Korea, Japan and Russia. Panax quinquefolius grows in the U.S.

Production: Ginseng root consists of the dried main and lateral root and root hairs of Panax ginseng.

Other Names: American Ginseng, Chinese Ginseng, Korean Ginseng (back to top)

ACTIONS AND PHARMACOLOGY

COMPOUNDS

Triterpene saponins

Aglycone (20S)-protopanaxadiol: including ginsenoside Ra1, Ra2, Ra3, Rb1, Rb2, Rb3, notoginsenoside R4, Rs1, Rs2, malonylginsenoside Rb1, Rc, Rd

Aglycone (20S)-protopanaxytriol: including ginsenoside Re, Rf, Rg1, notoginsenoside R1

Aglycone oleanolic acid: including ginsenoside Ro, chikusetsusasaponin-V

Water-soluble polysaccharides: panaxane A to U

Polyynes: including falcarinol (panaxynol), falcarintriol (panaxytriol), examples estered with acetic acid

or linolenic acid

EFFECTS

The main active agent is ginsenoside. In various stress models, (immobilization test and the coldness test), the resistance of laboratory rodents was increased. (back to top)

INDICATIONS AND USAGE

- Lack of stamina

Ginseng is also used as a tonic for invigoration and fortification in times of fatigue and debility and for declining capacity to work and concentrate. It is also used during convalescence. (back to top)

PRECAUTIONS AND ADVERSE REACTIONS

Health risks or side effects following the proper administration of designated therapeutic dosages are not recorded. (back to top)

OVERDOSAGE

Massive overdosages can bring about Ginseng Abuse Syndrome, which is characterized by sleeplessness, hypertonia and edema. (back to top)

DOSAGE

Mode of Administration: Comminuted drug infusions, powder and galenic preparations for internal use. Various standardized preparations containing ginseng root are available.

Preparation: To make an infusion, pour boiling water over 3 gm comminuted drug and strain after 5 to10 minutes.

Daily Dosage: The average daily dosage is 1 to 2 gm root. The infusion may be taken 3 to 4 times a day over 3 to 4 weeks. (back to top)

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PDR® for Herbal Medicines entry for:

Eleutherococcus Senticosus

Siberian Ginseng

Description

DESCRIPTION

Medicinal Parts: The medicinal parts are the pulverized root rind, the pulverized root and an alcoholic fluid extract of the rhizome and the roots.

Flower and Fruit: The flowers are in umbels. The central umbel is on a long, thick peduncle. The style is fused into a column to the tip and has 5 small stigma lobes.

Leaves, Stem and Root: Siberian Ginseng is a 1 to 3 m high shrub whose branches are thickly covered with pale, thorny bristles pointing downwards at an angle. The leaves are in groups of 5 and are thorny-serrate. The petiole is covered in fine bristles.

Habitat: Siberian Ginseng grows in Siberia, northern China, Korea and Japan.

Production: Siberian Ginseng consists of the dried roots and/or rhizome of Eleutherococcus senticosus as well as their preparations in effective dosage. (*back to top*)

ACTIONS AND PHARMACOLOGY

COMPOUNDS

Polysaccharides: immunstimulatingly effective polysaccharides (eleutherane A-G)

Triterpene saponins: eleutheroside I, eleutheroside K (beta-hederin), eleutheroside L, eleutheroside M (hederasaponin B), for all of these aglycone oleanolic acid

Steroid glycosides: eleutheroside A (daucosterol, beta-stigmasterol-3-O-beta-D-glucoside)

Hydroxycoumarins: isofraxidin

Phenylacrylic acid derivatives: eleutheroside B (syringin)

Lignans: sesamine, eleutheroside D (epimeric diglucosides of syringaresinols)

EFFECTS

In various stress models, e.g., immobilization test and coldness test, the endurance of rodents was enhanced. With healthy volunteers, the lymphocyte count, especially that of T-lymphocytes, increased following intake of liquid extracts. (back to top)

CONTRAINDICATIONS

The drug should not be administered in the presence of high blood pressure. (back to top)

INDICATIONS AND USAGE

- Tendency to infection

Siberian Ginseng is used as a tonic for invigoration and fortification in times of fatigue and debility or declining capacity for work and concentration, and during convalescence. (back to top)

PRECAUTIONS AND ADVERSE REACTIONS

Health risks or side effects following the proper administration of designated therapeutic dosages are not recorded. (back to top)

DOSAGE

Mode of Administration: Powdered or cut root for teas, as well as aqueous-alcoholic extracts for internal use.

Daily Dosage: The average daily dosage is 2 to 3 gm of root. (back to top)

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PDR® for Herbal Medicines entry for:

Caulophyllum Thalictroides

Blue Cohosh

Description

DESCRIPTION

Medicinal Parts: The root is the medicinal part.

Flower and Fruit: The inflorescence on the terminal leaf is panicled, 3 to 6 cm long and surrounded by a leaf like bract. The flowers are yellowish-green to purple and are 1 cm in diameter. The six sepals are arranged in 2 rows. The 6 petals are markedly reduced, inconspicuous, and gland-like. The 6 stamens are as long as the petals. The ovary opens before it is ripe and contains 2 dark blue 5 to 8 mm long, roundish seeds which are on solid stems and which resemble drupes because of the fleshy seed-shell.

Leaves, Stem and Root: The plant is a leafy, 30 to 70 cm high erect perennial with a brownish-gray, branched rhizome. The leaves are inserted in the middle of the shoot with a large, almost sessile leaf which is tri-pinnate and resembles 3 foliage leaves. The leaflets are stemmed, obovate, finely divided into 3 lobes, and wedge-shaped at the base.

Characteristics: Taste is sweetish, then bitter, almost odorless.

Habitat: The plant is found in the damp woods of the eastern part of North America.

Other Names: Papoose Root, Squawroot, Blueberry Root, Beechdrops, Blue Ginseng, Yellow Ginseng
(back to top)

ACTIONS AND PHARMACOLOGY

COMPOUNDS

Quinolizidine alkaloids: main alkaloids (-)-anagyrines, (-)-N-methyl-cytisines

Magnoflorine (isoquinoline alkaloid)

Triterpene saponins

Caulosapogenin

EFFECTS

An unspecified glycoside, which has been localized from the drug, and then injected into the ears of rabbits, causes a strong local irritation. Applying a solution into the rabbit's eyes leads to inflammation. Glycoside is supposed to have an oxytoxic effect.

The weak estrogenic, spasmolytic effect is probably caused by, as of yet, unknown constituents, the ensuing nicotine effect is possibly caused by N-methylcytisine. (*back to top*)

INDICATIONS AND USAGE

In India, the drug is known as a treatment for gynecological disorders. In English and American medicine, the drug has been used since the beginning of the 20th century; for worm infestation, dehydration, menstrual ailments, cramps, and mainly to stimulate contractions and act as an antispasmodic during labor.

The above-mentioned applications have not been sufficiently proven medically. (*back to top*)

PRECAUTIONS AND ADVERSE REACTIONS

General: No health hazards or side effects are known in conjunction with the proper administration of designated therapeutic dosages.

Pregnancy: The drug should not be taken during the first three months of pregnancy due to its estrogenic effect and possible teratogenic action of the anagyrines. (*back to top*)

DOSAGE

Mode of Administration: The drug is used internally as a decoction or a liquid extract.

Preparation: Infusion (no specifications); Liquid Extract 1:1 in ethanol 70% (V/V)

Daily Dosage: The average single dose is 0.3 to 1 gm of drug; 0.5 to 1 ml of liquid extract. (*back to top*)

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